

Remarks

Claims 28, 30, and 31-46 are in the application. Claims 28, 31, and 39 are in independent form. Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 18-30 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 29 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 29, which has been cancelled. Claim 30 has been amended to correctly depend from claim 28. Applicants request, therefore, that claims 28 and 30 be allowed.

Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Selker (US Patent No. 5,777,704) in view of Gloor et al. (US Patent No. 4,298,249). Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 18-20 have been cancelled. Added claims 31-46 recite analogous subject matter and are patentably distinct from the cited references for the following reasons.

Added claim 31 recites a transmissive display device having a transmissive display panel that is positionable in a viewing position by a user and including a viewing front surface and a light-receiving rear surface. A reflective surface is positionable by a user to receive ambient light and reflect it toward the rear surface and through the transmissive display panel. A transmissive ambient light diffuser is positionable by a user so that ambient light is transmitted through the diffuser to thereby cooperate with the reflective surface to provide diffuse ambient light to the rear surface of the transmissive display panel.

Applicants submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest such a display device with a transmissive ambient light diffuser that is positionable by a user so that ambient light is transmitted through the diffuser, as recited in the claim. Selker includes an "artificial light source and diffuser 205" that is edge-mounted about the periphery of reflector 203. (Selker, Fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 37-

40.) Selker describes the artificial light source and diffuser 205 as providing backlighting of the LCD 209 when lid 201 is closed against the back of LCD 209. (Selker, col. 4, lines 51-60.) The passage at col. 5, lines 2-3 cited by the Examiner refers to the lid 201 being positioned over LCD frame 207 to cast a shadow thereon. Gloor et al. describes the use of diffuse reflectors, but provides no teaching or suggestion of a transmissive ambient light diffuser as claimed.

Applicants submit that neither of the cited references teaches or suggests a display device having a transmissive ambient light diffuser that provides ambient light to a transmissive display panel. Selker employs a light diffuser only for artificial (i.e., non-ambient) lighting, and Gloor et al. is directed to reflective displays. Applicants submit, therefore, that claim 31 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Similarly, added independent claim 39 recites a transmissive display device with a transmissive ambient light diffuser through which ambient light is transmitted. Applicants believe independent claims 31 and 39 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Applicants believe that dependent claims 32-38 and 40-46 are allowable as dependents of independent claims 31 and 39. Applicants believe that claims are further allowable for the following reasons.

Claims 35 and 43 recite a pivotal coupling between the transmissive display panel and the reflective surface and a pivotal coupling between the transmissive display panel and the diffuser, whereby the transmissive display panel and the diffuser are pivotable relative to each other separate from pivoting between the transmissive display panel and the reflective surface. Neither of the cited references teaches or suggests such a combination of features. Selker describes a system in which a reflective surface 203 and an artificial light source and diffuser 205 are in fixed relation to each other. There is no indication of providing the separate pivoting recited in claims 35 and 43.

Claims 37 and 45 a pivotal coupling between the diffuser and a top edge of the display panel. Neither of the cited references teaches or suggests such an arrangement between a diffuser and a display panel. Selker describes a system in which an artificial light source and diffuser 205 pivots in fixed relation to a reflective surface 203 and relative to a bottom edge of an LCD. There is no indication of providing a pivotal coupling between a diffuser and a top edge of a display panel as recited in claims 35 and 43.

Claims 38 and 46 recite a backlight positioned behind the transmissive display panel to selectively transmit light onto and through the light-receiving rear surface in combination with the ambient light. Selker describes a system that uses either reflected ambient light or an artificial backlight. There is no indication of providing illumination from a backlight in combination with ambient light as recited in claims 38 and 46.

Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 18-20 are provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 26 and 27 of copending application No. 09/299,522. Applicants traverse the provisional rejection for the following reasons.

Such a provisional rejection requires that claims 26 and 27 of copending application No. 09/299,522 be considered in their entirety. Claims 26 and 27 depend from respective independent claims 13 and 23. Accordingly, the combination of claims 13 and 26 of copending application No. 09/299,522 recites:

13. A display device, comprising:
  - a housing;
  - a display panel, mounted in said housing, having a front portion comprising a viewing surface and a rear portion comprising a non-viewing surface;
  - a backlight positioned behind the display panel;
  - a front photo-sensor for determining the intensity of light impinging on the viewing surface of the display panel;

a rear photo-sensor for determining the intensity of light impinging on the non-viewing surface of the display panel, the light impinging on the non-viewing surface comprising ambient light originating from outside the housing and said ambient light also entering the housing from behind the non-viewing surface; and

a backlight intensity control circuit for controlling the intensity of the backlight as a function of the determined intensity of light impinging on the viewing surface of the display panel and also as a function of the determined intensity of light impinging on the non-viewing surface of the display panel.

26. The display device of claim 13, further comprising:

a device for directing the ambient light through said non-viewing surface, the device for directing ambient light being moveably attached to said housing; and a diffuser located behind the display panel, the diffuser being moveably attached to said housing at a different location from the device for directing the ambient light, the diffuser for diffusing at least some of said ambient light before that ambient light passes through said non-viewing surface of the display panel.

The combination of claims 13 and 26 recites a display device that includes a front photo-sensor, a rear photo-sensor, and a backlight intensity control circuit, together with the subject matter of claim 26. Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are patentably distinct from claim 26 with the features of its base claim 13. For example, the claims of the present application are patentably distinct from includes the combination of a front photo-sensor, a rear photo-sensor, and a backlight intensity control circuit. Similar distinctions arise with regard to claims 23 and 27.

Applicants submit, therefore, that the claims of the present application are patentably distinct from claims 26 and 27 of copending application No. 09/299,522, when properly considered in their entirety. Applicants request, therefore, that this provisional rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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